



NEWS RELEASE
*Office of the
United States Attorney
for the
District of Nebraska*
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January 15, 2010

United States Attorney Deborah R. Gilg and the Lincoln Police Department, the United States Postal Inspection Service, and the United States Postal Service announce the following information for the attention of the media:

Event Triggering this Release: On January 15, 2010, a Lincoln man was sentenced to seven years and three months (87 months) in prison for conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine. Roberto Alvarez Sanchez was arrested by officers of the Lincoln Police Department and the United States Postal Inspection Service on June 3, 2009, after he picked up a Priority Mail package containing approximately six ounces of nearly pure methamphetamine. The package was identified and removed from the mail by the United States Postal Inspection Service and the United States Postal Service after information was provided to the Lincoln Police Department indicating that Alvarez Sanchez planned to have a package of methamphetamine delivered to him at another person's residence. The package was identified and seized by the Postal Service and the Postal Inspection Service, and a dog from the Lincoln Police Department Canine Unit indicated the presence of drugs in the package. The majority of the drugs were removed from the package, and the package was resealed with a small amount of drugs inside. Alvarez Sanchez was arrested after picking up the package at the Lincoln residence to which it was addressed. A total of 166.39 grams of methamphetamine with a purity of between 89% and 95% was found in the original package. A subsequent search of Alvarez Sanchez's residence resulted in the finding of the remnants of a similar package with a shipping date of May 20, 2009. Alvarez Sanchez also made comments during the controlled delivery indicating he had previously received drugs through the mail.

Alvarez Sanchez originally faced a prison sentence of at least ten years, but he qualified for a sentence below the ten-year statutory minimum due to his lack of significant prior criminal history and the fact that he provided information to law enforcement about this offense. Following the prison term, Alvarez Sanchez will serve five years on supervised release. He was also ordered to pay a \$100 special assessment. Alvarez Sanchez agreed to the forfeiture of \$985 in cash, which included \$925 cash seized from him at the time of his arrest and \$60 in cash which he provided to a person who lived at the address listed on the package in return for allowing the package to be delivered to that residence.

Name of Defendant: Roberto Alvarez Sanchez

AKA:

Age: 41

City of residence: Lincoln

Crime(s) Charged and Potential Penalty (A CHARGE is merely an accusation and every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty): Count I: Conspiracy to distribute and possess with the intent to distribute 50 grams or more of methamphetamine (actual), a Schedule II controlled substance in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Section 846; and Count II: Forfeiture of \$985.00 cash representing money used to facilitate the drug offense listed in Count I, or representing proceeds of that offense, pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, section 853. The possible penalty for Count I is not less than 10 years nor more than life imprisonment and a fine of up to \$4,000,000. Following any term of imprisonment, there would be a term of supervised release of not less than five years. There is also a \$100 special assessment. The possible penalty for Count II is forfeiture of \$985.00 cash to the United States.

Specific Location of Alleged Crime: Lincoln

Location of Arrest: Lincoln

Alleged Dollar Loss/Type and Quantity of Drug: Alvarez Sanchez was found responsible for at least 150 grams (approximately 5 1/4 ounces) but less than 500 grams (approximately 18 ounces) of actual methamphetamine.

Others Charged in Same Scheme: none

Relevant Dates:

Date of Alleged Crime: Between on or about May 20, 2009, and on or about June 3, 2009

Federal Arrest Date: July 24, 2009

Date Complaint Issued:

Indictment Returned Date: July 22, 2009

Initial Appearance Date: July 28, 2009

Plea or Trial and Date(s): Alvarez Sanchez pled guilty on October 20, 2009

Sentencing Date: January 15, 2010

Next Court Hearing Type and Date: none

Assigned Magistrate Judge:

Held without Bond, or Released from Custody: held without bond

In Continuous Custody Since: June 3, 2009

Assigned District Court Judge: The Honorable Richard G. Kopf

Initials of Assigned AUSA/Preparer of THIS Release: SEF